

What is claimed is:

- Sub 1*
1. A cartridge for use in a fluid warmer, comprising:
a rigid plate having a first surface and a second opposing surface, the plate having a meandering path provided therein; and
a sheet of film that completely covers the first and second surfaces.
 2. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the film is flexible.
 3. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the film is thin.
 4. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the meandering path comprises a plurality of alternating U-shapes.
 5. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the film is a single film that is wrapped around the plate.
 6. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the rigid plate is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.
 7. The cartridge of claim 1, wherein the film is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.
 8. The cartridge of claim 6, wherein the film is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.
 - Sub 2*
9. A cartridge for use in a fluid warmer, comprising:
a rigid plate having a first surface and a second opposing surface, the plate having a meandering path provided therein;
a first sheet of film that covers the first surface; and
a second sheet of film that covers the second surface.
 10. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the film is flexible.
 11. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the film is thin.

12. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the meandering path comprises a plurality of alternating U-shapes.

13. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the first and second sheets of film completely cover the first and second surfaces, respectively.

14. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the rigid plate is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

15. The cartridge of claim 9, wherein the films are made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

16. The cartridge of claim 14, wherein the films are made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

17. A system for warming a fluid, comprising:
a fluid warmer having a housing that retains therein a heating element; and
cartridge that is retained inside the housing and which receives heat from the heating element, comprising:

a rigid plate having a first surface and a second opposing surface, the plate having a meandering path provided therein; and

a sheet of film that covers the first and second surfaces.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the film is flexible.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the film is thin.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the meandering path comprises a plurality of alternating U-shapes.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the film is a single film that is wrapped around the plate.

22. The system of claim 17, wherein the film comprises a first sheet of film that completely covers the first surface, and a second sheet of film that completely covers the second surface.

23. The system of claim 17, further including means for aligning the cartridge inside the housing.

24. The system of claim 17, wherein the fluid warmer includes:
a heating element; and
a contact plate which thermally couples the heating element with the film of the cartridge, wherein the contact plate has a plurality of separate regions.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the fluid warmer includes a plurality of thermistors that are operatively coupled to the cartridge and which are also coupled to a processor, with each of the plurality of thermistors and the processor controlling the fluid traveling through the plurality of separate regions to a different temperature.

26. The cartridge of claim 17, wherein the rigid plate is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

27. The cartridge of claim 17, wherein the film is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

28. The cartridge of claim 26, wherein the film is made of a non-DEHP plastic material.

29. A method of warming fluids in a medical application, comprising:
passing a fluid through a plastic container that is made from a non-DEHP material.

30. The method of claim 29, further including:
providing the plastic container with a plastic contact film that is made from a non-DEHP material.

31. The method of claim 29, further including:
providing the plastic container with a material that is non-DEHP and which is latex-free.

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